(a) whether the first lot of the nuclear material for power generation has reached the country after the Indo-US nuclear deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the fuel could solve the present day power crisis and which are the States going to benefit from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 300 Te of natural uranium from France and 90 Te natural uranium pellets from Russian Federation is received.

(c) After manufacture of fuel bundles by Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), these will be used at Rajastan Atomic Power Station unit-2 (RAPS-2) in the first instance and RAPS 5 & 6 and RAPS 3&4 progressively. The beneficiary States are Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Blockage of Telephone Number

3508. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of telephones under '2874' exchange in New Rajinder Nagar area remained blocked for a number of days in July this year and those dialing those numbers only heard 'service of this number temporarily withdrawn';

(b) the actual number of telephones which were blocked and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are proposed including the action against erring staff to ensure that such cases do not recur and the subscribers are not unduly harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Sir, no blockage of lines under 2874 exchange were observed during the month of July, 2009. Remote Switching Units (RSUs) are monitored in main exchange daily for any faults etc. However, for telephone numbers disconnected due to non-payment, suitable announcement is given for some time.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view (a) above.

Penalty on Telecom operators

3509. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom regulator TRAI has asked for more powers including imposing penalty on Telecom operators for unsatisfactory service to subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to amend the TRAI Act and provide more powers to TRAI to deal with Telecom operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has sent a consolidated revised proposal to Department of Telecommunications to consider various amendments in the TRAI Act, 1997 including amendment of Section 29 of TRAI Act which *inter-alia* provides for imposition of penalty on telephone operators for violation of its directions.

(c) and (d) Government has not so far taken any final decision in this regard

Universal service obligation charge

†3510. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a cess as universal service obligation charge is being collected from each telephone subscriber in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount collected through it till June, 2009;

(c) the purpose for which this cess is collected from subscribers; and

(d) the amount spent till the end of June, 2009 for fulfilling the desired purpose out of the total amount collected so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Universal Service Levy (USL) is collected by the Government from various service providers (except pure value added service providers such as voice mail, e-mail etc.) operating in the country at the rate of 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). As on 30 June, 2009 a total amount of Rs. 26,207.11 crores has been collected as USL since the inception of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in April, 2002.

(c) The USL is collected to raise resource for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USOF) for providing telecommunication services in rural and remote areas of the country.

(d) As on 30 June, 2009, out of the total collection of Rs. 26,207.11 crores, Rs. 8,378.88 crores have been disbursed for USO Fund activities and Rs. 6,948 crores have been reimbursed to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towards payment of license fee and spectrum charges to Department of Telecommunications.

Independent Spectrum Regulator

3511. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been actively considering to set up an Independent Spectrum Regulator to solve spectrum related issues in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.